

## BOOK REVIEWS

James O. Menzoian, MD, Book Review Section Editor

### **An introduction to vascular biology: From basic science to clinical practice, 2nd ed**

Beverly J. Hunt, Lucilla Poston, Michael Shatner, Allison Halliday, editors; \$50.00.

This soft-cover textbook includes 19 chapters, divided between three sections. The first section includes basic science; the second section includes pathophysiology and mechanisms in imaging; and the third section includes clinical practice. The book was written by a diverse group of authors, including basic scientists, researchers, and clinicians. Their backgrounds are also varied, including universities, hospitals and medical centers, and pharmaceutical companies, all which provide a diverse vantage point on the subjects discussed. All of the authors are in the United Kingdom, and they provide the usual clear literary style known for books published in Great Britain.

The strengths of this book are its primary aim, which is a relatively introductory text to provide a broad overview of vascular biology for relative newcomers to the field. The chapters are concise, and they provide good resources and depth to the topics addressed. There are appropriate illustrations, and many chapters provide an excellent reference section. Although the topic is broad, this textbook has other advantages. The chapters provide graduate students or residents undertaking vascular biology research with a background for a journal club to discuss various topics in vascular cell biology, including angiogenesis, neurohormonal regulation of vascular tone, and issues relating to compliance in vascular cell biology.

In contrast to the strong chapters in basic science, some of the clinical chapters are almost rudimentary. For example, the chapter on aortic aneurysms fails to address either the important clinical aspects or how the vascular biology of aneurysms may be relevant. There is also no reference to the important vascular biology aspects of aortic aneurysm disease that have now led to large clinical trials that are studying inhibition of the growth of aneurysms with administration of drugs. Also, the strong familial predilection for aneurysms is addressed; however, the only ones discussed in depth relate to specific genetic disorders, which likely have a small role in aneurysm development. Although one can agree that no specific molecular genetic cause has been demonstrated in aneurysm disease, how it fits into the spectrum of arteriosclerosis as a disease is not addressed.

Two other major topics missing in this book on vascular biology relate to the interesting pathophysiology and vascular biology of recurrent stenosis, and the vascular biology of venous disease. Although there is a good chapter on wound healing, which does address some of these issues, it relates primarily to dermal wound healing, not the wound healing involved in blood vessels after angioplasty or stent placement. These topics would have a much broader appeal to the vascular surgeon or practitioner than issues relating to pulmonary hypertension, which could have been incorporated in the chapter on the vascular biology of hypertension.

In summary, the book will be useful for medical students, graduate students, or residents interested in learning about vascular biology. The topics addressed are generally covered well. This

textbook will be particularly useful in providing a background for a weekly laboratory meeting to discuss topics in vascular biology as part of an informal curriculum to supplement the specific laboratory research program in vascular biology.

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### **The progressive supper**

Aubrey Waddy; Felixstowe, England; 2003; Rhapsody; 254 pages; £10.5.

Reviewing fiction for the *Journal of Vascular Surgery* is unusual, but this novel is unique. The antagonists are an overworked vascular surgeon and a slick interventional radiologist, and the background is more than one turf battle. The hospital turf battle is over resources allotted to their respective clinical programs, but the two are also competitive on the social turf, with the loyalty of wives and friends at stake. There is much intrigue and treachery in both fields of competition, and it is played out in the unusual background of a progressive supper, organized ostensibly as a unique and fun way for their shared social set to dine and mingle, but where the battle is deviously fought and the victor emerges. That the hero happens to be a vascular surgeon and the villain an interventional radiologist may make it all the more pleasant for our readers, but they may also find the details of the backdrop for the turf battle rather familiar: an abdominal aortic aneurysm endograft trial, thrombolytic therapy, percutaneous transluminal angioplasty, and stents and limb salvage bypass grafts are included in the various hospital scenarios. It takes inside knowledge to use these "props," but as Roger Greenhalgh, who wrote the Foreword points out, the author "has been perfectly placed to observe vascular surgeons and vascular radiologists." Indeed, the author spent a long time in the endovascular field, working with Boston Scientific during the Vanguard era. For that reason he is known to me, but European vascular surgeons are even more familiar with him, particularly those in the United Kingdom. The Foreword suggests that many will wonder on whom the lead players are based, since most good novels are based in part on fact. The book is dedicated to several individuals, but Peter Harris is the first named. Maybe he knows! For those who enjoy British humor and can pick up readily on their funny colloquialisms, this novel will provide enjoyable reading beyond any intrinsic interest in the turf battle itself, because humor and sex add much spice to the intrigue, and the book is hard to put down as the progressive supper nears its climax.

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